



Department of Energy

Field Office, Idaho
785 DOE Place
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401-1562

November 20, 1991

Dear Citizen,

As discussed during the past year, the Department of Energy, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the State of Idaho are initiating an aggressive program of waste cleanup at the INEL. In response to our commitment to keep you informed and involved with these cleanup activities, enclosed is a fact sheet which discusses three cleanup projects being initiated at the Radioactive Waste Management Complex. These projects include the removal of vapors from the ground (Vadose Zone), the cleanup of waste stored above ground (Pad A), and the cleanup of an inactive waste disposal pit (Pit 9).

As explained in the fact sheet, the Vadose Zone and the Pad A investigations are in the early stages of development with public scoping scheduled to identify the range of issues the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study should address. Scoping is the process of asking questions such as "What alternatives should be considered for cleanup?" and "What potential environmental impacts should be considered and analyzed?". DOE will consider citizen comments and ideas to help evaluate cleanup alternatives before the three agencies jointly select a preferred alternative.

Cleanup at Pit 9 is being conducted as an interim action to reduce the potential for groundwater and subsurface soil contamination from radioactive and hazardous materials which have been disposed at the site. Information learned from the interim action will be used to develop treatment technologies, provide a basis to project future cleanup costs, and plan schedules for remediation of other pits and trenches at INEL. A description of Pit 9 is included in the fact sheet.

For those on the INEL mailing list, we will also be sending the Proposed Plan for cleanup of Pit 9. The Proposed Plan is expected to be released on or before the beginning of the 30 day comment period that begins on December 4, 1991.

The Proposed Plan for Pit 9 evaluates five alternatives for cleanup and describes the alternative preferred by the Department of Energy, the Environmental Protection Agency and the State of Idaho. These agencies are requesting public review and comment on the alternatives to assist in the selection of a remedy. The remedy selected by the agencies may be the preferred alternative as outlined in the Proposed Plan or a combination of other alternatives and suggestions offered by the public.

To encourage public discussion on these projects, four public meetings have been scheduled. The meetings will begin at 6:30 p.m. The meeting locations and dates are as follows:

Boise	Boise Public Library, 715 S. Capitol Blvd.	Monday, December 9
Moscow	Cavanaugh's Value Inn, 645 W. Pullman Rd.	Tuesday, December 10
Twin Falls	Canyon Springs Inn, 1357 Blue Lakes Blvd. N.	Wednesday, December 11
Idaho Falls	Elks Lodge, 640 E. Elva	Thursday, December 12

An informal discussion is scheduled from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at each of the meeting locations. During this time, DOE and contractor staff will be available to discuss various project issues and answer questions.

Additional information on Pad A and Pit 9 will be placed in the Administrative Record at the INEL Information Repository section of the public libraries in Boise, Moscow, Pocatello, Twin Falls, and Idaho Falls and the INEL Technical Library in Idaho Falls.

DOE will also schedule briefings for individuals who are unable to attend the meetings, would like more information on the projects, or would like to discuss technical issues in more detail. Please contact Reuel Smith, INEL Community Relations Coordinator, at 526-6864 concerning your request.

If you would like to provide written comments, please send them by January 3, 1992 to my attention at the following address:

RWMC Cleanup Projects Attn: Walter N. Sato
Environmental Restoration Division
DOE Field Office, Idaho
785 DOE Place, MS 3902
Idaho Falls, ID 83401-1562

It is important that interested citizens such as yourself participate in scoping on the Vadose Zone, Pad A, and the selection of a cleanup alternative for Pit 9. Cleanup at INEL is important to all of us. I invite and encourage you to read the proposed plan and the enclosed fact sheet, ask questions, and offer suggestions regarding cleanup activities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Walter N. Sato". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Walter" being more prominent and the last name "Sato" following in a similar style.

Walter N. Sato
Acting Director
Environmental Restoration Division



Three Cleanup Projects Proposed for the Radioactive Waste Management Complex

The U.S. Department of Energy Field Office, Idaho (DOE-ID), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare need your input on three proposed cleanup projects at the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory's (INEL) Radioactive Waste Management Complex (see Figure 1). Two of the proposed projects, involving organic contamination in the vadose zone and the retrieval of above-ground, stored waste at Pad A, are in the scoping phase. The third project involves a Proposed Plan for an interim action addressing wastes disposed in Pit 9.

are associated with major INEL facilities. These have been further broken down into operable units. There are 14 operable units in Waste Area Group 7 (the Radioactive Waste Management Complex). The vadose zone, Pad A, and Pit 9 projects involve three of the operable units that are the focus of this fact sheet. Each operable unit is scheduled for investigation by the three agencies. Cleanup schedules for the remaining operable units in Waste Area Group 7 are contained in the Action Plan for Implementation of the Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order (document 420.2, pages A-3, 21, 22 in the information repositories).

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The three agencies need your help to determine issues and concerns for all three projects. These three projects and related public involvement activities are described in this fact sheet.

Environmental Restoration at the INEL

The DOE-ID, EPA, and the State of Idaho are entering into an agreement, the Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order, for the cleanup of the INEL. Within this agreement, the INEL has been divided into 10 Waste Area Groups that

The Cleanup Process

Studies are under way to identify the best way to clean up wastes at the INEL and the Radioactive Waste Management Complex. One of the processes used is the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study.

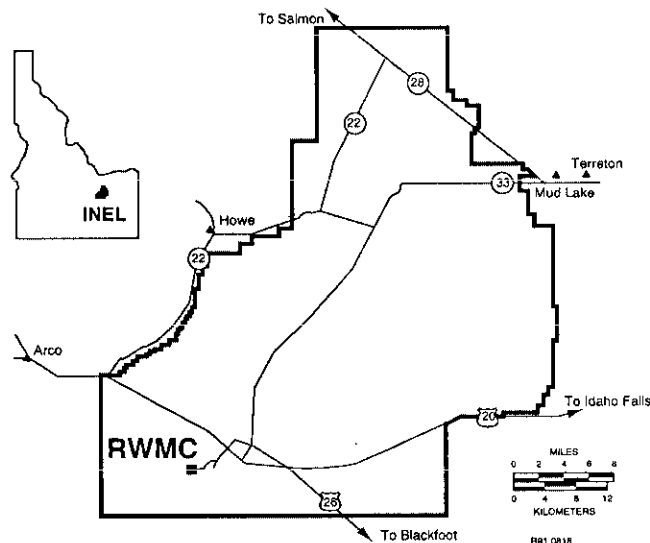


Figure 1. Location of the Radioactive Waste Management Complex at the INEL.

A Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study is a two-part process. The first part, the **Remedial Investigation**, begins with scoping. DOE-ID has determined that the public should participate in this scoping activity. The Remedial Investigation is used to determine the types, quantities, and locations of contamination at a given site and to assess the potential effects such contamination may have on human health and the environment.

Potential health effects are documented in a risk assessment, which is part of the Remedial Investigation. No one is currently at risk of exposure from Pad A or vadose zone contaminants. To be "at risk" means that:

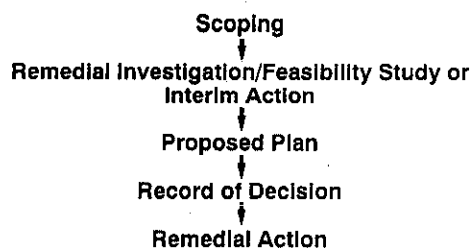
1. A harmful substance is expected to be, or is actually, in contact with a person or object.
2. The substance is (or will be) present in a form that can cause harm (e.g., if ingestion is the concern, it is in a form that can be ingested).
3. The substance is in a concentration that is sufficient to cause harm.

Information on contamination and risks collected during a Remedial Investigation is used to help identify and screen potential cleanup alternatives to reduce that risk. Full development and detailed analysis of cleanup alternatives are conducted during the **Feasibility Study**, which often overlaps with the Remedial Investigation.

The agencies have determined that an **interim action** is proposed to reduce the potential hazards in Pit 9. Interim actions are similar to Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Studies but are smaller in scope and conducted when there is a potential threat to human health or the environment that can or should be addressed within a short timeframe. They also are conducted when a problem is well-defined and does not require the detailed study provided in a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study.

When the Remedial Investigation/ Feasibility Study or interim action is completed, a **Proposed Plan** is prepared to identify the preferred alternative for remediation. A public comment period is then held on the Proposed Plan. When the comment period ends and all comments have been given consideration, a **Record of Decision** is prepared, formally selecting the final remedial action. A **remedial action** is a series of steps taken to eliminate, control, or monitor the actual or potential release of contaminants from a site to the environment as directed by the Record of Decision.

This process includes the following steps:



To determine if there are potentially significant negative impacts related to the cleanup alternatives developed during the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study or interim action, environmental documentation will be prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act. These documents will be written in parallel with each Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study or interim action and will be incorporated into the final decision documents.

An environmental assessment is currently being written for the Pit 9 Interim Action. DOE will begin the process to prepare environmental documentation for the vadose zone and Pad A projects by holding public scoping meetings. These meetings will be used to assist DOE in identifying potential impacts that should be evaluated during the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study. These public scoping meetings may be used to meet DOE requirements for environmental impact statement scoping meetings if it is determined that cleanup alternatives being considered may have significant environmental impact. A Notice of Intent to prepare an environmental impact statement would then be published and a public scoping period would be reopened to receive additional public comments. If it is determined that no significant impact would occur, a Finding of No Significant Impact will be published following completion of the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study.

The Radioactive Waste Management Complex

The Radioactive Waste Management Complex is a facility located on approximately 144 acres in the southwest corner of the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory. In 1952, the Radioactive Waste Management Complex was established as a disposal facility for solid, low-level radioactive waste generated at the INEL. From 1954 to 1970, transuranic-contaminated radioactive wastes from the Rocky Flats Plant in Colorado, along with radioactive wastes from the INEL, were disposed in pits and trenches at the Subsurface Disposal Area of the complex. Since 1970, transuranic waste has been stored at the Radioactive Waste Management Complex awaiting the opening of a final repository for disposal.

Today, the Radioactive Waste Management Complex provides waste management facilities for the interim storage of transuranic waste and disposal of low-level waste. The Radioactive Waste Management Complex also supports research and development projects dedicated to the advancement of technologies for transuranic waste interim storage, low-level waste disposal, buried waste retrieval, and environmental restoration.

There are two areas within the Radioactive Waste Management Complex (see Figure 2):

1. The Subsurface Disposal Area, which is dedicated to permanent disposal of low-level waste generated at the INEL. The Subsurface Disposal Area is the site of the pits and trenches that contain both low-level waste and transuranic-contaminated waste from the Rocky Flats Plant.
2. The Transuranic Storage Area, which is dedicated to the management of transuranic wastes including interim storage operations, waste certification, technology development, and in the future, shipment of waste to the DOE Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in New Mexico or some other approved repository for disposal.

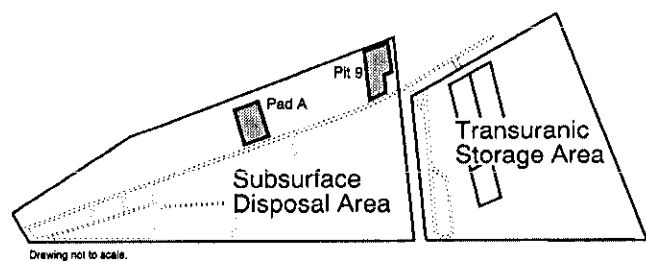


Figure 2. Locations of the Subsurface Disposal Area and Transuranic Storage Area.

Vadose Zone

What is the vadose zone?

Vadose zone is a geological term for the soil and rock that lies between the land surface and the top of the water table. The vadose zone at the Radioactive Waste Management Complex is also an operable unit that will be undergoing a Remedial Investigation/ Feasibility Study.

At the Radioactive Waste Management Complex, the vadose zone is about 580 feet thick [10 to 20 feet of sandy, silty surface soil below which lies about 560 feet of layered basalt (lava) flows]. The basalt flows are extensively fractured and are divided by layers of sediment at approximately 110 feet and 240 feet. The vadose zone of

the Radioactive Waste Management Complex is considered one of the 14 operable units scheduled for investigation.

Concerns with the vadose zone

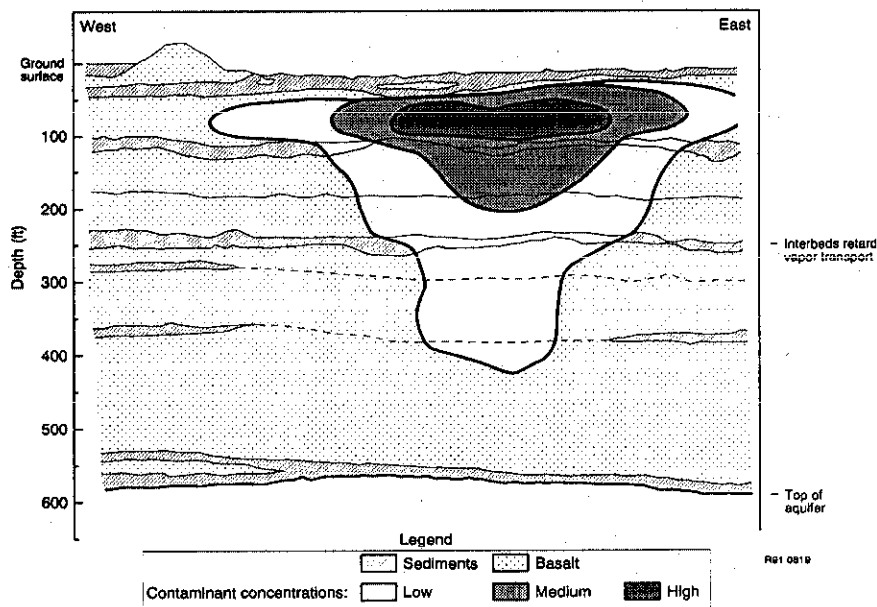
During the 1960s and early 1970s, prior to the passage of strict hazardous waste laws, barreled mixed wastes containing volatile organic compounds (absorbed in substances similar to kitty litter) and radioactive wastes were buried at the Subsurface Disposal Area of the Radioactive Waste Management Complex. Much of this waste was disposed in Pits 4, 5, 6, 9, and 10. In time, the barrels deteriorated, the organics evaporated from the substances they were absorbed in, and the barrels began to leak. This released volatile organic compounds to the vadose zone. In 1962, 1969, and 1982, local area snow-melt caused flooding at the Subsurface Disposal Area. Dikes have since been constructed around the perimeter of the Radioactive Waste Management Complex to prevent future flooding. INEL scientists believe, however, that this historic flooding accelerated the transport of volatile organic compounds to the aquifer immediately below the facility. This migration resulted in contaminant concentrations in groundwater detected below monitoring wells adjacent to the complex. Currently, this contamination is below drinking water standards. Models indicate, however, that volatile organic compound concentrations could increase if no action is taken.

What studies have been conducted of the vadose zone?

Since 1971, the U.S. Geological Survey and DOE-ID have drilled over 75 wells in and near the Radioactive Waste Management Complex. The purpose of the drilling has been to study the characteristics of the geology and hydrology and the extent of contamination in the vicinity of the disposal area. Although the results of these early studies were inconclusive, recent studies indicate concentrations of organic compounds are present in groundwater monitoring wells at the Radioactive Waste Management Complex. These studies suggest that organic vapors have moved downward through the subsurface and formed a vapor plume (see Figure 3).

A Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study will be conducted to evaluate organic contaminants in the vadose zone. It will meet the guidelines of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. This study will improve the understanding of the nature and extent of contamination of the vadose zone by the organic compounds. In doing so, the study will provide sufficient information to make an informed decision on the best alternative for cleanup of the vadose zone contamination.

Figure 3. Example of vapor plume in the vadose zone.



Who or what is at risk?

To evaluate potential risks posed by the contaminated vadose zone, DOE-ID conducted a preliminary health and environmental risk assessment in 1991. A risk assessment typically evaluates risk by studying the nature and extent of contamination, its relationship to population patterns and the environment, and known effects of contaminants.

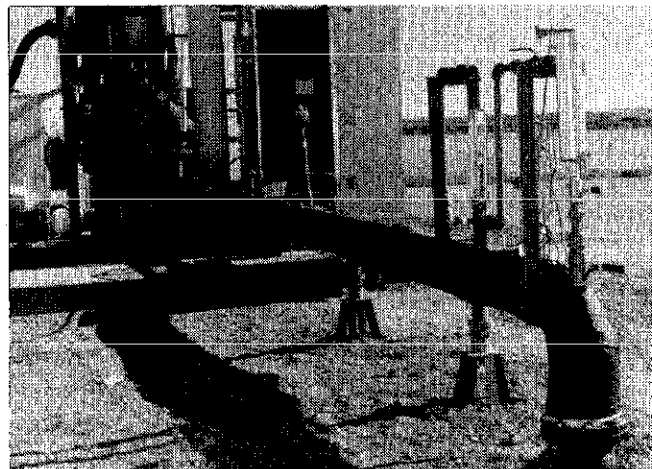
Groundwater is believed to be the main way volatile organic compounds could reach humans. Of concern are volatile organic compounds such as carbon tetrachloride, trichloroethylene, tetrachloroethylene, and trichloroethane. These chemicals, commonly used as degreasers and solvents, have been found in the vadose zone and in the aquifer below the complex. The study indicated that groundwater concentrations of carbon tetrachloride at 500 meters (1,550 feet) downgradient from the Subsurface Disposal Area would be greatest in about 20 years.

While there is no immediate threat to human populations, the Radioactive Waste Management Complex production well, which is the source of the facility's drinking water, contains small concentrations of volatile organic compounds. While the concentrations of compounds are below drinking water standards, DOE-ID, EPA, and the State of Idaho believe the contaminants should be removed.

Preliminary cleanup alternatives for the vadose zone

Two preliminary cleanup methods are discussed below for the removal of volatile organic compounds from the vadose zone.

Removal of volatile organic compounds: Under this alternative, volatile organic compounds would be extracted from the vadose zone. This would involve using an existing extraction well at the Radioactive Waste Management Complex, perhaps drilling some more wells, and applying a vacuum to the wells. This process, known as vapor vacuum extraction, would draw the hazardous chemical vapors from the soil and rock beneath the Radioactive Waste Management Complex, run gases through carbon filters and high efficiency particulate filters to remove any contaminants in the gas stream, and discharge the filtered gas to the atmosphere.



Vapor vacuum extraction equipment at the Radioactive Waste Management Complex.

A test-scale vapor vacuum extraction system was operated at the Radioactive Waste Management Complex in 1989 and in 1990. During a two-week test, 8.9 million cubic feet

of vadose zone gas were removed. During a four-month test, 65 million cubic feet of vadose zone gas were removed. The combined test periods resulted in the removal of 505 kilograms of carbon tetrachloride and 193 kilograms of trichlorethylene from the vadose zone.

Excavation: Under this process, contaminated soil and rock would be removed. Excavation would involve removing a very large amount of rock beneath the complex and is assumed to be impractical and dangerous.

No action: This alternative involves maintaining administrative controls without taking any direct action to treat, stabilize, or remove the contaminants.

Pad A

What is Pad A?

Pad A, a 2- to 3-inch-thick asphalt surface, measuring 240 by 335 feet, was built in September 1972 for the above-ground disposal of mixed wastes. These wastes are contaminated with relatively small amounts of uranium and plutonium, and hazardous materials such as potassium nitrate and sodium nitrate salts. Wastes were disposed in about 2,000 plywood boxes (4 x 4 x 7 feet) and about 18,000 55-gallon drums. Drums were stacked horizontally in staggered layers. Boxes were stacked a maximum of five high, and drums were stacked to a maximum of 11 high (see photo.)



Pad A at the Radioactive Waste Management Complex.

Pad A was closed in November of 1978, at which time waste containers occupied the east half of the pad, an area of about 32,000 square feet. Closure involved placing

plywood or polyethylene (or both) over the containers and covering them with a minimum of 3 feet of soil "overburden." These measures were taken to isolate the contents of Pad A from the environment.

Concerns with Pad A

While there are no near-term effects from contamination at Pad A, DOE-ID is evaluating potential long-term effects in a risk assessment that will identify all pathways through which human health or the environment might be threatened by either hazardous or radioactive materials contained on the pad. While the area's geology, plus the particle size and relative immobility of the contaminants suggests a low likelihood of contaminant migration, groundwater is believed to be the main potential pathway.

Studies conducted at Pad A

Two studies of Pad A have been conducted. The first, in 1979, was conducted to determine the condition of the containers on Pad A. The study, called a "penetration and inspection" project, was conducted on the oldest waste containers.

Study results showed that the drums, lids, and lock-rings varied in degrees of corrosion, but they generally appeared to be intact, except for one drum that was damaged during removal of the soil. The boxes, however, had deteriorated to the extent that they had lost structural integrity. Even so, plastic bags containing the waste materials within the boxes were found intact.

The second study occurred in 1989. A Pad A drum retrieval effort resulted in the removal of one drum, while other drums were examined in place. Examination showed that the top layers of the drums examined had corroded to the point that pinholes existed in the drums' structure. Again, the waste material, which is a salt-like substance, remained inside the original plastic bags, and no contamination was found on the outside of the drums. This effort was halted to prevent the possibility of dispersing the materials to the environment. After completing each of these studies, the containers were covered again to protect them against direct contact and wind dispersion of the contaminants.

A Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study will be conducted of Pad A. It will meet the guidelines of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. Findings of these two studies will be used to provide sufficient information to make an informed decision with respect to the best remediation alternative for cleanup of Pad A contamination.

Who or what is at risk?

It is anticipated that materials from Pad A will not migrate from the areas during the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study. There is no evidence of contamination release and no evidence of deterioration of the asphalt pad. As part of an on-going environmental monitoring program, INEL scientists take annual samples of surface soils and surface waters near Pad A to determine whether the wastes are moving off-site.

To date, no measurable levels of contaminants from Pad A have been detected in the nearby soil, groundwater, surface water, or off-site. DOE-ID, EPA, and the State of Idaho, however, are concerned about potential hazards of both radioactive and hazardous waste materials on Pad A.

Preliminary cleanup alternatives for Pad A

INEL scientists are seeking new technologies to effectively remediate Pad A wastes. DOE-ID, EPA, and State of Idaho are considering the following preliminary alternatives:

Removal, treatment, and disposal: This alternative involves removing the contaminated materials, treating them, and disposing of them in a controlled area.

In-situ treatment: In this alternative, the waste would be treated in place to stabilize its hazardous and radioactive components. In-situ vitrification is an example of a developing technology that can be considered under this alternative. In situ vitrification uses electricity to turn contaminated soil and waste into a glass-like material that resembles obsidian and has similar properties.

In-situ treatment followed by removal and disposal: In this alternative, the waste would be treated in place to stabilize its hazardous and radioactive components and then removed and disposed. In-situ vitrification (described above) is an example of a developing technology that can be considered as a treatment under this alternative.

Stabilization and institutional control: This alternative involves physically immobilizing the waste and controlling it. Capping is an example of a stabilization technology that can be considered. Institutional control includes the placement of fences, signs, monitoring, and security around a waste area.

No action: This alternative involves maintaining administrative controls without taking any direct action to treat, stabilize, or remove the waste.

Pit 9

What is Pit 9?

Pit 9 is an inactive waste disposal pit located in the northeastern corner of the Subsurface Disposal Area of the Radioactive Waste Management Complex (see Figure 4). Pit 9 is approximately 127 x 379 feet (covering approximately 1 acre). The pit depth is approximately 17 1/2 feet (i.e., an 8-foot waste zone with 6 feet of overburden and 3 1/2 feet of underburden).

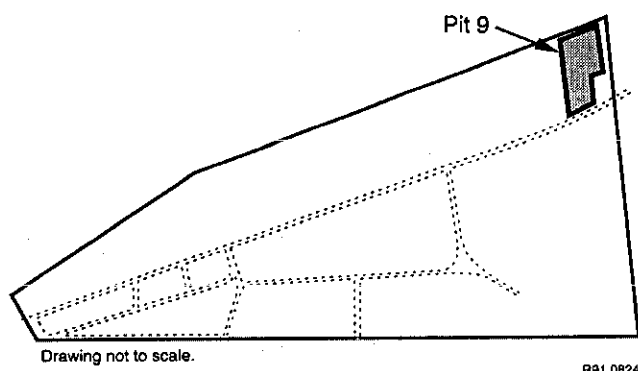


Figure 4. Location of Pit 9 in the Subsurface Disposal Area.

The inventory of wastes buried within Pit 9 was estimated from available shipping records and the Radioactive Waste Management Information System. The waste within Pit 9 is primarily transuranic wastes generated at the Rocky Flats Plant and additional wastes (primarily low-level waste) from waste generators located at the INEL. Approximately 110,000 cubic feet of waste buried in Pit 9 was generated at the Rocky Flats Plant, and consisted of drums of sludge, drums of assorted solid waste, and cardboard boxes containing empty contaminated drums. There were approximately 4,000 drums, 2,500 boxes (approximately 1,500 contained empty contaminated drums), and 80 unspecified containers of waste buried within Pit 9. In general, the boxes were disposed at the north end of the pit, and the drums were dumped in the south end, although, intermixing of containers in the pit did occur as a result of flooding in 1969. In addition, large metal objects were disposed north of the transuranic drums.

Concerns with Pit 9

During the 1960s and early 1970s, prior to the passage of strict hazardous waste laws, barreled mixed wastes containing volatile organic compounds and heavy metals mixed with radioactive waste were buried at the Subsurface

Disposal Area. Much of this waste was disposed in Pits 4, 5, 6, 9, and 10. Because it is possible that some of the storage containers in Pit 9 have breached, the potential exists for subsurface soils to be contaminated with both radioactive and nonradioactive materials.

DOE, EPA, and the State of Idaho have designated Pit 9 as an interim action to remove the source of contamination, primarily americium and plutonium. The Pit 9 Interim Action will be used to expedite site cleanup and to potentially halt possible contamination of the vadose zone and groundwater. The remedy is selected in the Record of Decision and may consist of the preferred alternative, another alternative, or a combination of elements of the various alternatives. Comments on the Pit 9 Proposed Plan will assist in the evaluation of alternatives and the remedy selection.

Interim action alternatives for Pit 9

The following five alternatives were evaluated as possible interim actions at Pit 9:

No action

In-situ vitrification: Using high temperatures to melt materials in place forming a glass-like material.

Ex-situ vitrification: Using high temperatures to melt materials removed from Pit 9 into a glass-like material.

Chemical extraction and/or physical separation: Extracting contaminants from Pit 9 materials, returning cleaned materials to the pit.

Complete removal, storage, and off-site disposal: This alternative involves complete removal of the materials within Pit 9, storing, and disposing of them in a controlled area.

The Proposed Plan for activities at Pit 9 at the Radioactive Waste Management Complex will be released on or before the beginning of the 30-day comment period that begins December 4, 1991. Copies of the plan will be mailed to individuals on the INEL mailing list. The Proposed Plan and associated reference documents will also be available in the Administrative Record prior to the comment period.

Public Involvement

Scoping comments on vadose zone and Pad A

The public is encouraged to become informed about these projects and to get involved in decision-making regarding cleanup. Under the scoping process, citizens are encouraged to offer suggestions on cleanup alternatives and any possible environmental impacts that might result from conducting cleanup actions. This input will be helpful in establishing the scope of issues to be studied during the investigations for the vadose zone and Pad A operable units.

Comments on the Pit 9 Interim Action Proposed Plan

Citizens are being asked to review all alternatives discussed in the Pit 9 Proposed Plan. It must be emphasized that the Proposed Plan is not the remedy selected, but is a presentation of the alternatives considered, including the agencies' preferred alternative. The remedy, selected in the Record of Decision for the interim action, may consist of the preferred alternative, another alternative, or a combination of elements of the various alternatives identified during the public comment period. All verbal and written comments received will assist the agencies in evaluating the alternatives and in selecting the remedy.

Public meetings

DOE-ID, EPA and the State of Idaho will hold meetings throughout the state to gather public comments on these three projects. These suggestions will be incorporated into the investigation as appropriate. Comments made at the meetings will be helpful to decision-makers. The meeting dates and locations are given below.

Boise	December 9	Boise Public Library
Moscow	December 10	Cavanaugh's Value Inn
Twin Falls	December 11	Canyon Springs Inn
Idaho Falls	December 12	Elk's Lodge

All meetings will begin at 6:30 p.m. DOE-ID and contractor staff will be available an hour before each meeting to informally discuss these projects.

What happens next?

Following scoping for the vadose zone and Pad A, a project-specific Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study and study to assess environmental impacts will begin. Once these studies are completed, the agencies will identify a preferred alternative in a Proposed Plan. A 30-day public comment period will be opened to gather comments on the Proposed Plan. Public meetings will be conducted to explain the Proposed Plan and to receive comments on the preferred and other alternatives. The public may request extension of the public comment period for an additional 30 days. This comment period will meet both the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act and National Environmental Policy Act requirements.

The Pit 9 Interim Action is at the Proposed Plan stage. After the public comment period on the Proposed Plan, DOE-ID, EPA, and State of Idaho will consider all relevant public and regulatory agency comments in preparing a draft Record of Decision. Comments submitted during the comment period will be responded to in a **Responsiveness Summary**. The Responsiveness Summary will be included in the final Record of Decision for this interim action.

DOE-ID will provide public notices at key milestones, including the initiation of scoping, the availability of the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study Report and the Proposed Plan for public comment, any extensions of the comment period, and the signing of the Record of Decision. This will be accomplished through media advertisements and press releases.

In addition to these activities, the DOE-ID will hold public meetings and provide periodic updates through the INEL Reporter and other fact sheets to keep the public informed about the progress of the studies.

Additional Information

If you would like more information about these studies or ways you can become more involved, please write or call the INEL Community Relations Plan Coordinator at (208) 526-6864. Correspondence may be directed to the following address:

*Community Relations Plan Coordinator
INEL Environmental Restoration Program
785 DOE Place
MS 3902
Idaho Falls, ID 83401-1562*

Information also can be obtained from the INEL information repository section and Administrative Record files located at the following libraries:

Library:	Hours:	Library:	Hours:
Idaho Falls Public Library 467 Broadway Idaho Falls, ID 83415 (208) 526-1450	8 a.m.-7 p.m. Mon-Thurs 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Fri 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Sat	Twin Falls Public Library 434 2nd Street East Twin Falls, ID 83301 (208) 733-2964	10 a.m.-6 p.m. Mon-Thurs 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Fri 12 p.m.-5 p.m. Sat
INEL Technical Library 1776 Science Center Drive Idaho Falls, ID 83415 (208) 526-1185	9 a.m.-9 p.m. Mon-Thurs 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Fri, Sat	Boise Public Library 715 South Capitol Blvd. Boise, ID 83706 (208) 384-4076	10 a.m.-6 p.m. Mon, Fri 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Tues-Thurs 1 p.m.-5 p.m. Sat
Pocatello Public Library 812 E. Clark Pocatello, ID 83201 (208) 232-1263	8 a.m.-7 p.m. Mon-Thurs 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Fri 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Sat	Moscow-Latah County Library 110 S. Jefferson Moscow, ID 83843 (208) 882-3925	10 a.m.-9 p.m. Mon, Thurs 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tues, Wed, Fri 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sat

Glossary

Action Plan - A document that defines the schedule and procedures for implementing the Interagency Agreement (IAG). The IAG is the agreement between DOE, EPA, and the State of Idaho implementing the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act at the INEL.

Administrative Record - Documents including correspondence, public comments, Record of Decision, technical reports, and others upon which the Agencies base their remedial action selection.

Area of contamination - The aerial extent of contamination and all suitable areas in very close proximity to the contamination necessary for implementation of the remedy.

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, commonly called Superfund - A law that establishes a program to identify sites where hazardous substances have been, or might be, released into the environment and to ensure that they are cleaned up or adequately controlled and monitored.

Environmental Assessment - A public document prepared under the National Environmental Policy Act that provides sufficient evidence to determine whether a federal action requires an environmental impact statement.

Interim action - An initial action to eliminate, reduce, or control the hazards posed by a site or to expedite total site cleanup.

Mixed waste - waste that contains both radioactive materials and hazardous chemicals. Mixed waste is subject to regulations and laws that govern both radioactive and hazardous wastes.

National Environmental Policy Act - A law that requires Federal agencies to consider the environmental impacts of major Federal actions affecting the quality of the human environment.

Operable unit - An operable unit consists of one or more potential waste units that are considered together for assessment and cleanup activities. Potential waste units are grouped into operable units to provide greater management and cleanup efficiency.

Proposed Plan - Document requesting public input on a proposed remedial alternative.

Resource, Conservation and Recovery Act - A law that defines hazardous waste and the requirements for dealing with hazardous waste.

Responsiveness Summary - The part of the Record of Decision that summarizes significant comments received from the public and provides the Agencies an opportunity to respond.

Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study - A document that describes the nature and extent of contamination and the evaluation of potential remedial options.

Record of Decision - The document that selects the final remedial action to be used to cleanup a site. It contains information about the site, the remedy selection process, and the selected remedy required by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act. It also contains the Responsiveness Summary.

Transuranic waste - Waste that contains transuranic radionuclides in concentrations greater than 100 nanocuries per gram of waste. Transuranic radionuclides are those that have an atomic weight greater than uranium and half-lives greater than 20 years.





*INEL Environmental Restoration Program
785 DOE Place, MS 3902
Idaho Falls, ID 83401-1562*

Address Correction Requested